

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The amendments to the specification referenced below correspond to the pages and lines of the Clean Copy of the application filed with the Amendment of August 9, 2002.

✓
Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 20 as follows:

B
The present invention relates to an insulating wire separator apparatus for piping systems. More particularly, the invention relates to an insulating wire separator apparatus for piping systems having an improved construction and structure, to protect buried pipes and cable from becoming damaged or melted from an accidental electrical charge, or ~~caused by~~ a lightning strike.

✓
Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 16, as follows:

B
More particularly, the invention relates to an insulating wire separator apparatus for piping systems having an improved construction and structure, to protect buried pipes and cable from becoming damaged or melted from an accidental electrical charge, or ~~caused by~~ a lightning strike.

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 20 as follows:

B
An insulating wire separator for piping systems protects buried pipes and cable from becoming damaged or melted from an accidental electrical charge, or ~~caused by~~ a lightning strike. The insulating wire separator apparatus is a multi-purpose clip device used to connect a tracer wire to conduits, cables, or piping. The charge put on the tracer wire ("locating wire") for locating purposes is about equal to that of an AM radio. This is especially useful for locating buried conduits, cables, or piping which are composed of plastic materials. The insulating wire separator spaces the tracer wires away from buried plastic conduits, cables, or piping during the

B3
Control

installation or back filling process to prevent the plastic conduits, cables, or piping from being melted or damaged due to an accidental electric charge placed upon the wire by electric wires in a joint trench installation, or by a lightning strike. Without this insulating wire separator, an incident such as this could be devastating and could result in loss of life or property.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 19, line 18 as follows:

Bk

Fig. 1 shows an insulating wire separator 100 for piping systems, having an improved construction and structure as compared with the prior art devices, to protect buried pipes and cable from becoming damaged or melted from an accidental electrical charge, or caused by a lightning strike. The insulating wire separator 100 is a multi-purpose clip device used to connect a tracer wire 170 to conduits 180, cables, or piping. The charge put on the tracer wire 170 (locating wire) for locating purposes is about equal to that of an AM radio. This is especially useful for locating buried conduits, cables, or piping which are composed of plastic materials.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 21, line 2, as follows:

B

Additionally, the insulating wire separator 100 ensures that the tracer locating wire 170 will stay in close proximity to the plastic conduits, cables, or piping, but not touching (e.g., several inches away), which meets the specified tolerance zone requirements for most states state's "one call system" for locating underground facilities. Preferably, the tracer locating wire 170 is spaced about ~~inches to~~ six inches away from the main conduit 180.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 21, line 7, as follows:

B

The insulating wire separator 100 shown in Fig. 1 includes a main conduit receiving portion 120 having an outer strengthening rib 110. The main conduit receiving portion 120 is preferably sized to resiliently receive the main conduit 180 through an opening 422 D provided in the main conduit receiving portion 120. The opening 422 D extends about the outer

B9
B10
circumference of the main conduit receiving portion 120, and preferably extends from about sixty to about eighty degrees from the centerline of the main conduit receiving portion 120, to allow the main conduit 180 to be flexibly received through said opening ~~122~~ D.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 21, line 14, as follows:

B10
The insulating wire separator apparatus 100 includes an arm portion 130 extending from the main conduit receiving portion 120, on the side opposite of the opening ~~122~~ D in the main conduit receiving portion 120. A foot plate and earth anchor portion 140 is positioned at right angles to the arm portion 130, in proximity to the conduit receiving portion 120.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 21, line 18 as follows:

B11
The insulating wires separator 100 can be installed on either side, or on top of existing conduits 180, cables, or piping. At least one of the conduits 180, cables, or piping are received in the main conduit receiving portion 120. The insulating wire separator 100 is preferably composed of a resilient material such as plastic or rubber, so that the insulating wire separator 100 can be resiliently deformed to receive at least one conduit 180, cable, or piping therein. A tracer wire 170 is received between opposing fingers a of a tracer wire clip portion 150, which is positioned on the arm portion 130 at least about three inches, and preferably about six inches away from the centerline of the main conduit 180.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 23, line 5, as follows:

B12
The pair of fingers 151 and 152 may be placed at an angle in relation to the centerline of the arm portion 130, to slightly deform the tracer wire 170, as shown in FIG. 8. Preferably, the angle is from three degrees to thirty degrees tangent to the centerline of the arm portion 130. This allows several sizes of wire to be inserted into the wire clip portion 150 and held therein,

Do not
while ~~resisting~~ preventing the tracer wire 170 from slipping or sagging during installation and backfilling operations.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 18, line 6, as follows:

BS
The insulating wire separator of the present invention includes a main conduit receiving portion having an outer strengthening rib. The insulating wire separator includes an arm portion connected to a wire clip portion. Along the arm portion, near the main conduit receiving portion, is a foot plate and earth anchor portion.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 24, line 6, as follows:

BS
Fig. 4 is a top elevational view of the insulating wire separator 100 of Fig. 1. In this view, the visible elements include the outer strengthening rib 110, the main conduit receiving portion 120, the arm portion 130, the foot plate and earth anchor portion 140, and the wire clip portion 150.

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 13, as follows:

BS
Fig. 6 is a side elevational view of an alternative means to connect the insulating wire separator apparatus 100 to the main conduit 180. This view is similar to the main conduit receiving portion 120 of Fig. 1, and has an arm portion 130 (partially broken away in Fig. 6) corresponding to the arm portion 130 of Fig. 1. The main conduit receiving portion 100 includes a first radiused half 210 and a second radiused half 220, each having respective extending flange portions 211, 212, 214, 216, secured together by a releasable ~~fastening means~~ fastener, such as threaded fasteners 217, 218 having respective nuts 221, 223. Any known releasable ~~fastening means~~ fastener may be used, without departing from the scope of this disclosure, or from the following claims.

Rewrite the paragraph starting on page 25, line 1, as follows:

16
B

Fig. 7A is a side view of the insulating wire separator apparatus 100, with a separator post 160 extending from the arm portion 130 at right angles. The separator post 160 preferably extends at least two inches above the arm portion 130. The separator post 160 is located at least ten inches from said plate portion 140, and the arm portion 130 preferably extends at least two inches beyond the separator post 160, to provide safe spacing for additional underground utilities. When a separator post 160 is used, the wire clip portion 150 is located midway between the foot plate and earth anchor portion 140 and the separator post 160, to space the tracer wire 170 between the main conduit 180 and additional underground utilities. This ensures a safe distance between underground utilities in a common trench. The insulating wire separating apparatus 100 disclosed herein, ensures that the distance between the tracer wire 170 and the main conduit wire 180, or other utilities, will be maintained during the backfilling process.